

17 November 1967

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Dr. Nicholas Golovin  
President's Scientific Advisory Council  
Office of Science and Technology  
Executive Office Building, Room 282

**SUBJECT :** Soviet Space Expenditures

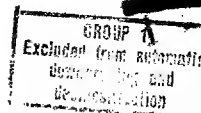
1. In response to your request to [REDACTED] for 25X1A9a information on Soviet space expenditures, we have prepared the attached data on the US and Soviet programs.

2. Direct information on actual Soviet space expenditures is not available; therefore, our costing methodology relies heavily upon U.S. analogs to compute the expenditures implied by observed Soviet space activities. While the evidential data base is both small and scattered, we believe that the methodology has provided a reliable measure for estimating the magnitude and expenditure trends of the Soviet program.

3. Estimated Soviet space program expenditures, measured in equivalent U.S. dollars over the period 1955-1967, reflect the priority the Soviets attach to maintaining a vigorous and expanding space program. These programs have required an increasing commitment of scarce resources which are in high demand for both military and economic investment purposes. Annual expenditures during 1967 are estimated at \$5.5 billion or about three fourths of the cost of the U.S. effort.

4. In recent years Soviet expenditures for military space projects have consistently amounted to 15-20% of the total space budget. To date, the Soviet satellite reconnaissance program has made up the major portion of military space costs. Anticipated additional military space projects over the

~~SECRET~~



8000000

next few years will probably cause the military share of annual space expenditures to grow to 25% or more by 1970. About one half of the civil space expenditures are related to manned space objectives.

5. Measured in dollar terms the Soviets have spent approximately one half as much as the U.S. for their combined civil and military space programs. The economic burden of its space programs, however -- in terms of the penalty in economic growth -- has been significantly higher for the USSR than for the US. With the continuation of the present level of expenditures, the Soviets will be able to carry out a highly competitive space program.

25X1A9a

6. As [REDACTED] has indicated, we are available to provide further details to members of the Space Advisory Panel at your convenience.

25X1A9a

[REDACTED]  
Director  
Strategic Research

Attachment:  
Estimated Space Expenditures  
for the USSR.

Distribution:  
Orig & 1 - addressee  
2 - D/OSR  
1 - SR/PL  
1 - SR/SF  
1 - SF/S

25X1A9a

OSR:SF: [REDACTED] :efb:5551 (17 Nov 67)